(d) Yes, Sir.

(e) As per Detailed Project Reports (DPRs) for 12 districts received from Himachal Pradesh, 12483 Below Poverty Line (BPL) households are targeted for electrification under RGGVY.

Power transmission in project

2201. SHRI B.J. PANDA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Power Grid Corporation proposes to launch a critical power transmission project connecting the North-east with the rest of the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far will this project help power-starved regions to get additional power to control power-cuts, especially in Delhi?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) and (b) Central Electricity Authority (CEA) and Power Grid Corporation of India Ltd. (PGCIL) have planned a scheme for evacuation and transmission of power to be generated in the new power projects in the North-East Region, Sikkim and Bhutan to the States in the Northern and Western Regions. The scheme envisages a ± 800 kV HVDC bipole of 6000 MW capacity.

(c) The States of Northern and Western Regions, including Delhi, would be the beneficiaries of this Transmission Project.

Status of Mega Power Projects

2202. SHRI RAJEEV CHANDRASEKHAR: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the status of various Mega Power Projects announced;

(b) whether the reports that a foreign partner has withdrawn from the Sasan Mega Power Project is correct; and

(c) if so, the reasons for withdrawal and whether it will have any impact on this important aspect of India's infrastructure building efforts?

THE MINISTER OF POWER (SHRI SUSHILKUMAR SHINDE): (a) Central Electricity Authority has identified nine sites for development of coal based Ultra Mega Power Projects (UMPP) of about 4000 MW capacity each under tariff based competitive bidding. Bidding process in respect of four projects *i.e.* Sasan in Madhya Pradesh, Mundra in Gujarat, Krishnapatnam in Andhra Pradesh and Tilaiya in Jharkhand has commenced. Letter of Intent has already been issued in respect of Sasan and Mundra UMPPs. The schedule date of submission of bids in respect of Krishnapatnam UMPP is 10th April, 2007. The date for submission of request for qualification documents in respect of Tilaiya UMPP is 20th March, 2007. Initiating the bidding process in respect of Girye in Maharashtra, Tadri in Karnataka, Akaltara in Chhattisgarh and Orissa UMPP is contingent upon the availability of requisite clearances and confirmation from the respective State Governments. In respect of locating UMPP in Tamil Nadu feasibility of development of related port facilities is the key issue to be addressed by the State Government prior to initiating the bidding process of this project.

(b) and (c) According to information made available by Power Finance Corporation M/s. Globeleq Singapore Pte. Ltd. (GSPL) [Lead member of Globeleq—Lanco Consortium] is still a part of the consortium in case of Sasan UMPP.

Overseas projects of NTPC

2203. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of POWER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that NTPC has taken up a 500 MW coal-based thermal project at Trincomalee in Sri Lanka recently;

(b) if so, the details of the project;

(c) whether NTPC has taken up any other power project in other countries of the world;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) whether it is also a fact that there is some problem in selecting the site, environmental clearance, etc. in Trincomalee; and